

# WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST  
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

## **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

January 18, 2013

### ***Billings* Shipwreck Discovery Story presented to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

At a public meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council in Santa Barbara on January 18, 2013, Robert Schwemmer, Maritime Heritage Coordinator for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary System's West Coast Region, gave a presentation on the discovery in sanctuary waters of the shipwreck *George E. Billings*. The talk was engaging and well received. Council members were impressed to learn that *Billings* media coverage generated 75 million impressions (opportunities to be seen), with a conservatively estimated comparable advertising value of \$500,000, or possibly up to \$5 million given the number of editorial features and premium placement of several stories. Schwemmer's presentation was also covered by the Santa Barbara News-Press ("Channel Islands sanctuary council discusses local outreach efforts").

### **Support Letter for ONMS Site Evaluation List Considered by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

On January 18, 2013 the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council learned about the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' (ONMS) "Site Evaluation List" (SEL) process and considered the possibility of writing a letter to NOAA leadership in support the SEL process being reinstituted. The council received an SEL informational presentation by William Douros, West Coast Regional Director and Acting Deputy Director for the ONMS. Council chairman Eric Kett proposed a support letter to the council that was modeled after a similar letter adopted by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Several council members supported the idea of the letter and were ready to adopt it, but others requested more time to consult with their constituencies or agencies, or additional time to consider possible edits to the letter to accommodate specific interests. The council voted in favor of reconsidering the letter at their next meeting.

March 15, 2013

### **Support Letter for Reactivation of ONMS Site Evaluation List Approved by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

On March 15, 2013 the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a letter expressing support for reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL) process for national marine sanctuaries. The letter will be addressed to the Acting Secretary of Commerce, the Acting NOAA Administrator, and the Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. A motion to approve the letter passed by a vote of 13-0, with four agency seat abstentions. The council's deliberations on this topic were thoughtful and at times robust. The council had learned

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about the SEL at their January 2013 meeting, receiving an informational presentation by William Douros, ONMS West Coast Regional Director. Several members worked hard to find a compromise on language in the letter that all could agree to, ultimately prevailing through a consensus-based approach. In the approved letter, the council states “The SEL is a starting point that allows a future public process to fully consider all factors including, but not limited to: environmental impacts; existing uses; cultural resources; opportunities for scientific research; greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and ocean acidification; and the interests of Federal and State agencies, including national defense and resource protection.” Their letter goes on to say that: “The SEL also allows for stakeholders (both consumptive and non-consumptive) to participate in a transparent process to consider all views and opinions. For example, the Recreational Fishing seat of the Channel Islands SAC has expressed concerns about possible restrictions on recreational fishing within Sanctuaries.” Council members agreed that regardless of support for or concerns about additional national marine sanctuaries being proposed for designation, the SEL process appears to represent a fair approach to considering community and agency interests.

## **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

February 21, 2013

### **Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils Attend Boundary Expansion Planning Workshop**

Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils attended a special workshop to identify, discuss, and prioritize issues of importance related to the proposed boundary expansion process for each sanctuary. Hosted by SeaWeb through National Marine Sanctuary Foundation grant funding, the workshop included presentations on the oceanographic and species composition of the proposed expansion area, and current and potential future use considerations such as alternative energy and aquaculture. Through break out groups and open discussion advisory council members suggested topics of consideration, including science needs and assessments, to be evaluated as part of the boundary expansion process. As key members of marine resource use, conservation, and management, council attendees provided valuable feedback that will further inform public scoping and environmental review processes currently underway.

## **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

February 7, 2013

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Supports Boundary Expansion for Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries**

At the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in Santa Cruz, advisory council members considered a resolution in support of a proposal for boundary expansion for the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Due to a lack of a quorum at the time of the agenda item to entertain a motion and vote on the resolution, the topic was tabled for the April 18<sup>th</sup> advisory council meeting. Because the public scoping closed March 1<sup>st</sup>, the advisory council members present for the agenda item conveyed their support for the expansion.

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## **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

January 18, 2013

### **Support Letter for Reactivation of ONMS Site Evaluation List Approved by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

On January 18, 2013 the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council approved a letter expressing support for reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL) process for national marine sanctuaries. The letter was addressed to the OCNMS Superintendent and requested it be forwarded to the Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Unanimous support was voiced for the motion to approve the letter, with one agency abstention. The council had learned about the SEL at their September 2012 meeting, receiving an informational presentation by William Douros, ONMS West Coast Regional Director. In the approved letter, the council states "the SEL is an important first step in a proven process by which a local community can start a public conversation about options for creating a national marine sanctuary off their coast. Reactivating the SEL will afford communities across the country an opportunity to engage in the process of nominating and lending their voices to supporting additional special marine places for potential consideration as national marine sanctuaries."

March 15, 2013

### **Moorings Working Group Recommendations Provide Support for Continued Funding of OCNMS Oceanographic Moorings Program**

On March 15, 2013, the OCNMS Advisory Council accepted the final recommendations of a Moorings Working Group, which was formed to evaluate the oceanographic moorings program implemented by OCNMS starting in 2000. The working group was chaired by Dr. Jan Newton, Research Seat and lead for the NANOOS (Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems), and included regional oceanography researchers and resource managers. A recurring theme of working group discussion was the inherent value of the data set generated by the sanctuary's mooring program. Working group members placed high value on the time series data provided by these moorings and supported the existing program design of mooring and instrument placement. Regional resource managers on the working group were in agreement that oceanographic data from this region is sparse and necessary for a variety of applications, including topics ranging from ocean acidification, hypoxia, fish habitat quality and survival, nearshore dynamics, and model validation. The Advisory Council voiced unanimous support for a letter to be forwarded to the ONMS West Coast Regional Director and others to gain financial support for continuation of this mooring program.

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